

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A data reproduction device for expanding and reproducing compressed data downloaded through a communication network, comprising:

memory means for temporarily storing the compressed data downloaded;

data expanding means for expanding the compressed data stored in the memory means;

reproducing means for performing streaming reproduction on data expanded by the data expanding means as soon as an amount of data stored in the memory means exceeds a first threshold value;

detecting means for detecting a data size of the compressed data temporarily stored in the memory means and a compression rate of the compressed data downloaded; and

control means for changing the first [[a]] threshold value and a second threshold value for the data size of the compressed data stored in the memory means based on the compression rate detected by the detecting means, and reading the compressed data from the memory means when the data size of the compressed data temporarily stored in the memory means exceeds the first threshold value and transferring the compressed data to the data expanding means, said control means temporarily stopping reproduction when the compressed data is determined as being less than or equal to the first threshold value until the compressed data is determined as being greater than the first threshold value, said control means temporarily stopping downloading the compressed data from the network when the compressed data in the memory means exceeds a second threshold value until the compressed data is determined as being less than the second threshold value, the second threshold value being higher than the first threshold value.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The data reproduction device according to claim 1, wherein the control means ~~changes controls to change~~ the first threshold value and the second threshold value larger when the compression rate of the compressed data temporarily stored in the memory means gets lower and ~~changes to change~~ the first threshold value and the second threshold value smaller when the compression rate gets higher.

Claim 3 (Original): The data reproduction device according to claim 2, wherein the detecting means detects the compression rate of the compressed data based on data contained in a header or a footer of a file of the compressed data downloaded.

Claim 4 (Original): The data reproduction device according to claim 2, wherein the detecting means detects the compression rate of the compressed data on the basis of bit rate data of the compressed data downloaded.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The data reproduction device according to claim 1, wherein the control means controls to change the first threshold value and the second threshold value in accordance with transmission capability of the communication network.

Claim 7 (Original): The data reproduction device according to claim 1, wherein the compressed data is MP3 (MPEG Audio Layer 3) data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A data reproduction method for expanding and reproducing compressed data downloaded through a communication network, comprising:

- (a) making a connection to a server delivering the compressed data;
 - (b) requesting the server to transfer partial data of a maximum size within such a range that the compressed data does not overflow into a memory means at a time of downloading the compressed data;
 - (c) starting reproduction compressed data as soon as an amount of data stored in the memory means exceeds a first threshold value ~~of a prescribed amount is stored~~;
 - (d) detecting a data size of compressed data temporarily stored in the memory means, and a compression rate of the compressed data downloaded;
 - (e) controlling to change ~~[[a]]~~ the first threshold value and a second threshold value for the data size of the compressed data based on the compression rate detected in the detecting;
 - (f) checking whether or not unreproduced compressed data in the memory means becomes less than or equal to the first threshold value; ~~and~~
 - (g) temporarily stopping reproduction when the compressed data is determined as being less than or equal to the first threshold value in the checking until the compressed data is determined as being greater than the first threshold value; ~~and~~
 - (h) temporarily stopping downloading the compressed data from the network when the compressed data in the memory means exceeds a second threshold value until the compressed data is determined as being less than the second threshold value, the second threshold value being higher than the first threshold value,
- wherein (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) are repeated until a transfer request of all data is completed.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The data reproduction method according to claim 8, wherein, in the controlling, control is performed to change the first threshold value and the

second threshold value larger when the compression rate of the compressed data temporarily stored in the memory means gets lower, and change the first threshold value and the second threshold value smaller when the compression rate gets higher.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The data reproduction method according to claim 9, wherein in the detecting, the compression rate of the compressed data is detected based on data contained in a header or a footer of a file of the compressed data downloaded.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The data reproduction method according to claim 9, wherein in the detecting, the compression rate of the compressed data is detected based on bit rate data of the compressed data downloaded.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The data reproduction method according to claim 8, wherein in the controlling, control is performed to change the first threshold value and the second threshold value in accordance with transmission capability of the communication network.

Claim 14 (Original): The data reproduction method according to claim 8, wherein the compressed data is MP3 (MPEG Audio Layer 3) data.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer recording medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor implement a

data reproduction method for expanding and reproducing compressed data downloaded through a communication network, the method comprising:

- (a) making a connection with a server delivering the compressed data;
- (b) requesting the server to transfer partial data of a maximum size within such a range that the compressed data does not overflow into the memory means at a time of downloading the compressed data;
- (c) detecting a data size temporarily stored in the memory means, and a compression rate of the compressed data downloaded;
- (d) starting reproduction as soon as an amount of data stored in the memory means exceeds a first threshold value ~~when compressed data of a prescribed amount is stored;~~
- (e) changing ~~[[a]]~~ the first threshold value and a second threshold value for the data size of the compressed data based on the compression rate detected in the detecting;
- (f) checking whether or not unreproduced compressed data in the memory means becomes less than or equal to the first threshold value; ~~and~~
- (g) temporarily stopping reproduction when the compressed data is determined as being less than or equal to the first threshold value in the checking until the compressed data is determined as being greater than the first threshold value; and
- (h) temporarily stopping downloading the compressed data from the network when the compressed data in the memory means exceeds a second threshold value until the compressed data is determined as being less than the second threshold value, the second threshold value being higher than the first threshold value,

wherein (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) are repeated until a transfer request of all data is completed.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A data reproduction device for expanding and reproducing compressed data downloaded through a communication network, comprising:

a memory configured to temporarily store the compressed data downloaded;
a data expanding unit configured to expand the compressed data stored in the memory;

a reproducer configured to perform streaming reproduction on data expanded by the data expanding unit as soon as an amount of data stored in the memory exceeds a first threshold value;

a detector configured to detect a data size of the compressed data temporarily stored in the memory and a compression rate of the compressed data downloaded; and

a controller configured to change [[a]] the first threshold value and a second threshold value for the data size of the compressed data stored in the memory based on the compression rate detected by the detector, to read the compressed data from the memory when the data size of the compressed data temporarily stored in the memory exceeds the second threshold value, to transfer the compressed data to the data expanding unit, and to temporarily stop reproduction when the compressed data is determined as being less than or equal to the second threshold value until the compressed data is determined as being greater than the second threshold value, said controller configured to temporarily stop downloading the compressed data from the network when the compressed data in the memory exceeds a second threshold value until the compressed data is determined as being less than the second threshold value, the second threshold value being higher than the first threshold value.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The data reproduction device according to claim 16, wherein the controller is configured to change the first threshold value and the second threshold value larger when the compression rate of the compressed data temporarily stored

in the memory gets lower and to change the first threshold value and the second threshold value smaller when the compression rate gets higher.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The data reproduction device according to claim 17, wherein the detector is configured to detect the compression rate of the compressed data based on data contained in a header or a footer of a file of the compressed data downloaded.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The data reproduction device according to claim 17, wherein the detector is configured to detect the compression rate of the compressed data on the basis of bit rate data of the compressed data downloaded.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New): The data reproduction device according to claim 16, wherein the second threshold value is twice the first threshold value.

Claim 22 (New): The data reproduction device according to claim 16, wherein the first threshold value is equal to $N \times B \times R$ and the second threshold value is equal to $2N \times B \times R$, where N is a transmission rate of the network, B is the compression rate, and R is a conversion coefficient.